

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tool vending machine comprising:

a housing having a sidewall which encloses an internal chamber, a door mounted in said sidewall, said door being located within a door opening formed in said sidewall;

at least one first compartment located in said internal chamber;

at least one second compartment located in said internal chamber, said second compartment being larger in size than said first compartment;

moving means for moving said first compartment and said second compartment, said moving means being located within said internal chamber, said moving means to move said first compartment and said second compartment to be located directly adjacent said door to permit manual access into said compartment by opening of said door, only a single said compartment to be aligned with said door at a time;

selection means mounted on said sidewall, said selection means to permit manual selection of either said first compartment or said second compartment to be moved in alignment with said door; and

baffle means mounted on said housing and located within said internal chamber, said baffle means to be movable to change size of said door opening so said door opening corresponds in size with the size of said compartment that is

aligned with said door, whereby when a said compartment is aligned with said door and said door is opened a person is permitted to exact a tool contained within said compartment and only that compartment.

2. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 1 wherein:  
there being a plurality of said doors.

3. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 1 wherein:  
said door being pivotally movable relative to said housing.

4. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 1 wherein:  
there being a plurality of said first compartments.

5. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 4 wherein:  
said first compartments being mounted on a level of a first bin carousel,  
each said compartment in said level of said first bin carousel all being of the same  
size.

6. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 1 wherein:  
there being a plurality of said second compartments.

7. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 6 wherein:  
said second compartments being contained within a level of a second  
bin carousel.

5 8. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 1 wherein:  
said moving means comprising a rack and pinion gear assembly.

9. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 1 wherein:  
said baffle means comprising a pair of plates movable simultaneously in  
opposite directions.

10 10. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 9 wherein:  
said plates being mounted on directly adjacent said door.

11. A tool vending machine comprising:

a bin carousel tray assembly that has a plurality of different size compartments, said bin carousel tray assembly being mounted within an internal chamber of a housing;

5                    selection means for selecting a compartment of said compartments to be moved directly adjacent to and in alignment with a door mounted in said housing; and

                  a baffle assembly mounted in conjunction with said door, said door defining an opening, said baffle assembly to automatically adjust size of said opening  
10                    to correspond to size of said compartment with it being understood that only a single said compartment can be aligned with said door at a time.

12. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 11 wherein:

                  said bin carousel assembly comprising a plurality of carousels with each said bin carousel tray containing only compartments of a given size and where each  
15                    said bin carousel contains a different size compartment.

13. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 11 wherein:

                  said baffle assembly comprising a plurality of plates.

14. The tool vending machine as defined in Claim 13 wherein:

said plurality of plates actually comprising a pair of plates which are movable simultaneously in opposite directions.

15. A method of automatically extracting a tool from a compartment

5 with there being a plurality of different size compartments available comprising the steps of:

manually selecting the tool;

moving said compartments until a desired said compartment is located to be manually accessible through an opening formed in a housing which is normally  
10 closed by a door; and

automatically adjusting size of said opening to correspond to size of said compartment only permitting a user to extract said tool from that compartment and not permitting access to any directly adjacent compartment.

16. The method of automatically extracting a tool from a compartment

15 as defined in Claim 15 wherein prior to said manually selecting step there is the additional step of mounting said compartments on a series of bin carousels where each tray of said carousel has only a single size of said compartments.

17. The method of automatically extracting a tool from a compartment as defined in Claim 15 wherein said step of automatically adjusting is accomplished by moving a plate assembly to restrict or enlarge said opening.

5 18. The method as defined in Claim 17 wherein the step of moving said plate assembly is accomplished by moving a pair of plates in opposite directions.